

Listing of Claims:

11. (currently amended) A method of pulverising frangible material, comprising:

placing an inlet of an air flow means in communication with a venturi,
the air flow means sucking air through an air inlet located upstream of a the
venturi and then through the venturi,
wherein a flow through the venturi is at a speed equal to or in excess of Mach
1, and
feeding pieces of the frangible material to be pulverised in the air flowing to the
venturi at a point between said air inlet and said venturi,
wherein said feeding entrains said pieces of the frangible material in the air
flowing to the venturi and carries the pieces to the venturi by the flowing air.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

separating said frangible pieces into a stream of pieces which reach said
venturi in succession.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

screening said frangible material and preventing material pieces larger than a
predetermined size from reaching said venturi.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

pulverising the frangible material by a shock wave acting at an upstream
position with respect to the venturi,

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wherein said shock wave is produced by an interaction between the frangible material, the flowing air, and the venturi.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said venturi comprises:

a throat,

a convergent portion which decreases in a first cross-sectional area from an air inlet end thereof to said throat, and

a divergent portion which increases in a second cross-sectional area from said throat to an air outlet end thereof.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said convergent and divergent portions are both circular in cross section.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

screening the frangible material and preventing pieces of greater than a predetermined size from reaching said venturi.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein feeding comprises:

feeding said pieces of frangible material as a stream of pieces which are spaced apart in a direction in which said stream of pieces is traveling.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said means for feeding comprises an inclined rotatable feed screw.

20. (new) A method of pulverising material, comprising:

placing an air flow means in communication with a venturi;

the air flow means generating an air flow traversing through the venturi and towards the air flow means;

introducing material to be pulverised into the air flow; and

the material passing through the venturi and into the air flow means.

21. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the material includes frangible pieces and the method further comprises separating the frangible pieces into a stream of pieces which reach the venturi in succession.

22. (new) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

screening the frangible pieces; and

preventing the frangible pieces larger than a predetermined size from reaching the venturi.

23. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the venturi is circular in cross section.

24. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising coupling an inlet to the venturi such that the air flow traverses through the inlet.

25. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein introducing material into the air flow includes introducing material into the inlet.

26. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein placing an air flow means in communication with a venturi includes coupling a suction inlet of the air flow means to an outlet of the venturi.

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